[5th January 1954

Reduction of rent in Koothali estate, Malabar.

* 300 *Q.*—SRI P. KUNHIRAMA KIDAV: Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state whether the Government have got any representation from the tenants of Koothali estate, Kurumbranad taluk, North Malabar, seeking reduction of rent for this year due to the recent flood havoc; and if so, what action has been taken?

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR:—"The answer is in the negative."

Construction of a bridge at Perimba ferry, North Malabar.

* 301 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state at what stage the construction of the bridge at Perimba ferry, Payyanur, North Malabar, stands now?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI:—"In respect of improvement works on the Bombay-Cape Comorin road the Government of India have agreed to meet 50 per cent of the expenditure. They have been requested to accord technical approval to the estimates and financial sanction for 50 per cent of the estimated expenditure. The work will be taken up as soon as the sanction has been received."

Purchase of new buses.

* 302 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many new buses were purchased during 1952–53 and their cost;

(*b*) how many half decker buses were constructed and the cost of each; and

(*c*) how many lorries are being used in the place of buses?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO:—"(*a*) & (*b*) Eight new Guy buses were purchased during 1952–53. Seven of them are single-decker buses and one is a 'half-decker'. The overall cost of a single-decker bus is Rs. 70,410 per bus. The overall cost of the half-decker bus is Rs. 73,620.

"(*c*) Fourteen lorries are used in addition to buses."

SRI A. RATNAM:—"இவைகளில் டீஸல் வண்டிகள் எத்தனை ? பெட்ரோல் வண்டிகள் எத்தனை ? டிராம் வண்டிகள் நின்றபிறகு அதிகப்படியான பஸ்கள் தேவைப்படுகின்றன. எத்தனை பஸ்கள் வாங்க உத்தேசம்? அதற்கு எவ்வளவு செலவாகும் ?"

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO:—"Yes, Sir, these are diesel buses and the hon. Member may be aware, from the answer I gave to another question on a previous occasion, that we have bought 40 buses and we are going to buy 40 heavy buses. We have also changed the petrol vehicles into diesel vehicles by installing Perkin's engines."